



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2013-0475]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Neches River, Beaumont, TX

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Kansas City Southern vertical lift span bridge across the Neches River, mile 19.5, at Beaumont, Texas. The deviation is necessary to replace the north vertical lift joints on the bridge. This deviation allows the bridge to remain closed to navigation for twelve consecutive hours.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2013-0475] is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH." Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 1200 New Jersey

Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or email Kay Wade, Bridge Administration Branch, Coast Guard; telephone 504-671-2128, e-mail Kay.B.Wade@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Barbara Hairston, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Kansas City Southern Railroad has requested a temporary deviation from the operating schedule of the vertical lift span bridge across the Neches River at mile 19.5 in Beaumont, Texas. The vertical clearance of the bridge in the closed-to-navigation position is 13 feet above Mean High Water and 140 feet above Mean High Water in the open-to-navigation position.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.971, the vertical lift span of the bridge is automated and normally not manned but will open on signal for the passage of vessels. This deviation allows the vertical lift span of the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013.

The closure is necessary in order to replace the north vertical lift joints on the bridge, which allow the bridge to be raised. This maintenance is essential for the continued operation of the bridge. Notices will be published in the Eighth Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners and will be broadcast via the Coast Guard Broadcast Notice to Mariners System.

Navigation on the waterway consists of commercial and recreational fishing vessels, small to medium crew boats, and small tugs with and without tows. No alternate routes are available for the passage of vessels; however, the closure was coordinated with waterway interests who have indicated that they will be able to adjust their operations around the proposed work schedule. Small vessels may pass under the bridge while in the closed-to-navigation position provided caution is exercised.

The bridge will be able to open manually in the event of an emergency, but it will take about one hour to do so.

Due to prior experience and coordination with waterway users, it has been determined that this closure will not have a significant effect on vessels that use the waterway.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: June 6, 2013

David M. Frank
Bridge Administrator

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